



Oliver Hirsch

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Overview

Oliver Hirsch is a criminal barrister based at 3PB's Winchester office. He conducts work for both defence and prosecution.

As defence counsel, Oliver has secured acquittals in a range of cases, including the supply of Class A drugs and assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH). He has been instructed as junior counsel in cases involving historic child sex offences and county lines drug trafficking; and has appeared in the Court of Appeal, where his client's sentence was reduced by 18 months.

Oliver has been appointed to Level 2 of the CPS General Crime Advocate Panel. Previous cases have included the successful prosecution of an attempted robbery.

Oliver's caseload extends beyond general crime to encompass regulatory matters. He was recently involved in the successful defence of an e-bike retailer from prosecution by the DVSA.

Oliver is the editor of 3PB's criminal law newsletter.

Recommendations

"Totally on top of his brief, good manner with witnesses and jury, careful and not even vaguely prolix... a not guilty verdict against a lot of evidence, in part because he focused on just the right narrow issue." - **Circuit Judge**

"I was struck by his presence. He spoke well and confidently." - **Circuit Judge**

"Your expertise has not only led us to this successful result but has also provided a sense of support and confidence during the times when the situation seemed most daunting. Your ability to navigate through the complexities of this case has been nothing short of remarkable." - **Client**

Client: "Thank you for the fantastic job you did of standing up for me in court. I had never been in that situation or setting before and I'm sure it was obvious to you and everyone else that I was very nervous. I found you to be professional and I thought you brought the points of my case across very well, which I'm sure is what led to a great result." - **Client**

Academic qualifications

- Bar Professional Training Course, V Competent (University of Law)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, Distinction (University of Law)
- BA History, First (University of Oxford)

Scholarships

- GDL Exhibition Scholarship
- BPTC Princess Royal Scholarship

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Level 2 – CPS Advocate Panel – General Crime
- Vulnerable witness training, Middle Temple

Professional bodies

- Inner Temple
- Western Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- UK Centre for Animal Law

Expertise

Crime

Oliver Hirsch is a barrister, based at 3PB's Winchester office, who accepts instructions in both defence and prosecution work, appearing in the magistrates', youth and Crown Courts.

Criminal Defence

R v A: junior defence counsel in a multi-handed conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

R v M: represented defendant in the Court of Appeal, having his sentence reduced by one third.

R v K: ABH, client acquitted of allegation that he assaulted his neighbour. He had argued self-defence.

R v S: possession of Class A with intent to supply – client acquitted after trial by jury.

R v E: acted as junior counsel in a multi-week trial of historic child sexual abuse allegations.

R v L: defended client at his sentencing for a knifepoint attempted robbery; highly unusually, a suspended sentence was passed.

R v B: Successfully argued that the defendant would suffer 'exceptional hardship' if her driving licence was not restored.

R v W: Mitigating for his client in a court martial sentencing for going absent without leave, Oliver persuaded the court to grant (unusually) a community service order.

R v T: client acquitted at trial; self-defence to a charge of assaulting an emergency worker.

R v C: possession of a bladed article; starting point of 18 months in custody reduced to a 6-month suspended sentence.

Criminal Prosecution

R v P: secured conviction for street robbery after trial by jury.

R v B: custodial sentence for a racially aggravated public order offence upheld on appeal.

R v P: conviction for driving in charge of a vehicle while unfit.

R v M: conviction in drink-driving case involving expert evidence.

Proceeds of Crime

R v A: Oliver persuaded the prosecution to settle, after making a novel argument that the defendant's current account balance was in fact held on trust for his bank. The client paid £16,000 less than the prosecution had been pursuing.

R v C: Oliver negotiated the amount sought by the prosecution down from £15,000 to £3,500.

Regulatory

Oliver acts in all areas of regulatory law. His most recent experience includes taxi licence appeals and a private prosecution under the electric pedal cycle regulations.

Articles

Oliver Hirsch examines when defendants' claims of unlawful use of force by police officers can be substantiated, with due regard to the powers available to police officers in s.117 PACE 1984, and the rights to use reasonable force available to all citizens.

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Oliver Hirsch analyses the case of R v AFU [2023] EWCA Crim 23, a case in which the Court of Appeal reviews the authorities on abuse of process applications in trafficking and modern slavery cases.

The Court confirms that the police must take proactive steps to investigate a suspect's trafficking or slavery status, and in particular consider making an NRM referral.

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3PB's criminal law and personal injury barrister [Oliver Hirsch](#) discusses the reversal of the 12-month sentencing powers given to magistrates last year.

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